Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W

-----040629 081235Z /50

R 080845Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5399 USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS MTN, USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MTN, RP

SUBJECT: MTN: AGRICULTRUAL ITEMS, U.S. MTN REQUEST LIST

- 1. EMBASSY HAS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH SOME AGRICULTURAL ITEMS ON U.S. "REQUEST" LIST TABLED MARCH 1976 DURING ECONOMIC BILATERALS: MOST U.S. SOYBEAN PRODUCTS ENTER PHILIPPINES UNDER TARIFF NUMBER 19.02 (FOR EXAMPLE: TEXTURE VEGETABLE PROTEIN, SOY PASTE, BEAN CURD, ETC.) NOT TARIFF NUMBER 21.07 WHICH, ON OUR 1976 LIST, HAS A COMMODITY DESCRIPTION OF "SOY PROTEIN PRODUCTS". NUMBER 21.07 IS DESCRIBED IN PHILIPPINE NOMENCLATURE AS "FOOD PREPARATIONS NES," AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AN IMPORTANT TRADE ITEM FOR U.S.
- 2. NUMBER 19.02 IS ON U.S. REQUEST LIST IDENTIFIED AS "FLOUR OF WHEAT AND SPELT ..." FLOUR OF WHEAT AND SPELT WOULD BE IMPORTED INTO THE PHILIPPINES UNDER NUMBER 11.01 AND AGATT BELIEVES THAT IF LOCAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSUMPTION OF THIS ITEM BECAME IMPORTANT, LOCAL FLOUR MILLERS WOULD IMPORT NECESSARY GRAINS AND PRODUCE THE FLOUR LOCALLY.

3. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT NUMBER 2.02, "DEAD POULTRY" BE AN "EX OUT" COVERING ONLY TURKEY (WHICH WE BELIEVE IS OUR MAIN INTEREST) AND DUCK BUT EXCLUDING CHICKEN WHERE

PHILIPPINES IS SELF-SUFFICIENT. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD ALLOW OUR NEEDS TO BE MET AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR PHILIPPINES TO GRANT CONCESSIONS.

- 4. ON TARIFF ITEM NUMBER 24.01B, THERE IS, AS LIST SPECIFIES, A TARIFF OF 100 PERCENT ON THE BOOKS, BUT GOP ONLY COLLECTS 14 PESOS PER KILO (ABOUT 1.92 DOLLARS) PER POUND REGARDLESS OF THE PRICE. THE MIXING REGULATIONS, WHICH WE LIST AS NTM, DO EXIST BUT ARE NOT REPEAT NOT ENFORCED. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE MAINTAIN REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF MIXING REGULATIONS AND ASK FOR BINDING OF 14 PESO PER KILO DUTY, E.G. BINDING OF DE FACTO STATUS QUO.
- 5. ALSO, DUTY ON COTTONSEED OIL (15.07B) IS 50 PERCENT NOT REPEAT NOT 20 PERCENT AS LISTED. DUTY ON SOYBEAN OIL (WHICH HAS SAME TARIFF NUMBER) IS, HOWEVER, STILL 20 PERCENT ACCORDING TO PHILIPPINE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ALTHOUGH TARIFF LISTING WE HAVE STILL CITES DUTY AS 50 PERCENT. EMBASSY WILL REVERIFY THESE RATES AND REPORT IF WE DISCOVER ANY DISCREPANCIES WITH ABOVE INFORMATION. TOUSSAINT

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